

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 116823
ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00
DODE-00 EA-09 EUR-12 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 NASA-02 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02
PA-02 PRS-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-15 /149 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/PA:JMPOPE:HL
APPROVED BY ACDA/PA:PASANJUAN
-----210112Z 115278 /62

P 201754Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 116823

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, SOPN

SUBJECT: MAY 20 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA GAVE HEAVY PLAY TO REPORT OF PROGRESS IN BREAKING DEADLOCK IN ARMS NEGOTIATIONS. NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT BERNARD GWERTZMAN SAID "IN CONTRAST TO RECRIMINATIONS THAT FOLLOWED MR. VANCE'S MISSION TO MOSCOW, MOOD HERE HAS BEEN RELAXED, AND TODAY AMERICANS SEEMED MORE ENCOURAGED BY PROSPECTS THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME IN RECENT WEEKS. BECAUSE OF APPARENT PROGRESS, MR. VANCE DELAYED HIS DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON BY AT LEAST 24 HOURS."

2. ROBERT KEATLEY OF WALL STREET JOURNAL, ALSO REPORTING FROM GENEVA, SAID NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL TALKS "SHOW SIGNS OF MAKING SERIOUS PROGRESS THIS WEEK, ALTHOUGH BOTH SIDES REMAIN TIGHT-LIPPED ABOUT JUST WHAT THEY'RE DOING.... FOR RECORD, RUSSIAN AND AMERICAN SALT POSITIONS REMAIN FAR
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 116823

APART, BUT KEY WORD ON U.S. SIDE SEEMS TO BE 'SYNTHESIS.'
THAT REFERS TO EFFORT TO COMBINE TWO DIFFERING POSITIONS SO

EACH CAN CLAIM NEGOTIATING SUCCESS, WHILE ENSURING THAT TALKS CONTINUE. BOTH GOVERNMENTS SEEM DETERMINED TO GET SECOND SALT TREATY, PARTLY TO KEEP THEIR OVER-ALL POLITICAL RELATIONS FROM DETERIORATING."

3. MICHAEL GETLER OF WASHINGTON POST, IN DISPATCH FROM GENEVA, SAID "U.S. OFFICIALS HERE HAVE BEEN STRESSING PRIVATELY THAT IF COMPROMISE IS WORKED OUT THAT IS CLOSER TO CURRENT SOVIET POSITION AT LEAST ON SURFACE, IT WILL CONTAIN COMMITMENT TO BEGIN WORK IMMEDIATELY TOWARD THIRD MAJOR SALT AGREEMENT. THIS ACCORD WOULD STRIVE FOR TYPE OF LIMITATIONS PRESIDENT CARTER IS SEEKING IN HIS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN." GETLER SAID "SECRECY HERE AND IN WASHINGTON ON QUESTION OF HOW TO WORK OUT CRUISE MISSILE DILEMMA MAKES IT VERY DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE IF REAL BARGAIN CAN BE STRUCK."

4. ALSO WIDELY REPORTED WAS PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICY STATEMENT ANNOUNCING BROAD MEASURES TO RESTRICT SALES OF WEAPONS ABROAD. BERNARD WEINRAUB OF NEW YORK TIMES SAID "HOW NEW POLICY DIFFERS BROADLY FROM PROGRAMS OF PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS REMAINS VAGUE EXCEPT IN PRESIDENT'S STATED COMMITMENT TO SHIFT BURDEN OF PERSUASION TO THOSE WHO FAVOR SALE RATHER THAN TO THOSE WHO OPPOSE IT." WEINRAUB QUOTED JESSICA TUCHMAN, WHO HEADS OFFICE OF "GLOBAL ISSUES" IN NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, AS SAYING NEW POLICY'S OVER-ALL IMPACT ON ECONOMY WOULD BE MINIMAL. TUCHMAN, AT WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING, REPORTEDLY SAID POLICY WOULD RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN SALES. IN FY 1977, SHE SAID, SALES WERE IN RANGE OF 8.8 BILLION DOLLARS TO TEN BILLION DOLLARS.

5. NEW YORK TIMES, IN EDITORIAL, RECALLED ROBERT MCNAMARA'S ADMONITION THAT "THERE IS KIND OF MAD MOMENTUM UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 116823

INTRINSIC TO DEVELOPMENT OF ALL NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONRY. IF WEAPONS SYSTEM WORKS AND WORKS WELL, THERE IS STRONG PRESSURE FROM MANY DIRECTIONS TO PROCURE AND DEPLOY WEAPON...." TIMES SAID MCNAMARA'S ADMONITION COMES TO MIND AS U.S. AND SOVIET UNION TRY -- "WITH SOME SUCCESS" -- TO REVIVE DEADLOCKED ARMS CONTROL TALKS IN GENEVA. STATING THAT "MAD MOMENTUM PERSISTS," TIMES EDITORIALIZED: "THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE OF NEGOTIATING 'COMPREHENSIVE' MISSILE REDUCTION AS PRESIDENT CARTER PROPOSES BY OCTOBER, WHEN FIRST SALT AGREEMENT ON OFFENSIVE MISSILES EXPIRES. MORE MODEST AGREEMENT NOT COVERING THIS POINT IS MOST LIKELY. AND YET DEPLOYMENT OF MARK 12A WARHEAD'S NEW GUIDANCE SYSTEM IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER. PAUL WARNKE, ARMS CONTROL DIRECTOR, HAS CONCEDED THAT JUST AS UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE BEEN SAFER WITHOUT MIRV'SON EITHER SIDE, IT WILL BECOME STILL LESS SECURE ONCE THE SILO-BUSTERS ARE DEPLOYED BY BOTH SIDES.... DEPLOYMENT OF MARK 12A WARHEAD COULD MAKE ARMS LIMITATION EVEN MORE DIFFICULT THAN IT HAS ALREADY BECOME. IT SHOULD BE POST-

PONED -- AND SOON ENOUGH TO INFLUENCE ATMOSPHERE OF SALT TALKS. THIS WOULD NOT BE UNILATERAL WEAKENING OF AMERICAN DEFENSES. IT WOULD BE TEMPORARY SELF-DENIAL TO STRENGTHEN FORCES OF REASON AGAINST MAD MOMENTUM."

6. FORMER AMBASSADOR CHARLES W. YOST, IN COLUMN PUBLISHED IN CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR TITLED "MYSTERY OF SOVIET INTENTIONS," SAID SOVIET UNION'S "FIRST PRIORITY, AT LEAST SINCE 1920, HAS BEEN ITS OWN SECURITY -- NOT WORLD DOMINATION. IT HAS REPEATEDLY DEMONSTRATED, AS IN HITLER-STALIN PACT OF 1939, ITS WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE OTHER INTERESTS IN PURSUIT OF THIS ELEMENTAL AIM." WRITING FROM MOSCOW, YOST SAID "THERE ARE FEW GROUNDS FOR BELIEVING, AND MANY FOR DISBELIEVING, THAT SOVIETS WOULD IN ANY FORESEEABLE FUTURE INITIATE EITHER NUCLEAR OR LARGE-SCALE CONVENTIONAL WAR.... AS LONG AS DETENTE -- THAT IS, ARMS CONTROL AND SOME DEGREE OF ACCOMMODATION IN EUROPE -- UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 116823

CONTINUES TO BE SOVIET POLICY, IT WILL BE IN WESTERN INTEREST TO RESPOND AND TO PUSH FARTHER ALONG THIS ROAD. AN OPEN SOCIETY HAS MORE TO GAIN BY WHATEVER DEGREE OF INTERPENETRATION IS POSSIBLE THAN A CLOSED SOCIETY." CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), NEGOTIATIONS, PRESS SUMMARIES, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE116823
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JPMPOPE:HL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770181-0042
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770533/aaaabcox.tel
Line Count: 143
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b4fec58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2427980
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAY 20 PRESS ROUNDUP
TAGS: PARM, PFOR, SOPN, US, UR
To: SALT TALKS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b4fec58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009